


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: April 15, 2011
TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development
RE: Friday Report 
CC: Board of Aldermen
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Monday 4/18/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City Hall Closed for Patriot's Day
Tuesday 4/19/11	
Wednesday 4/20/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor's Budget Presentation to Board of Aldermen, 7:45 p.m., Aldermanic Chamber• Urban Design Commission, 7:00 p.m., Planning Dept. Conference Room (Basement)• Bike Newton Steering Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Brigham House (20 Harford Street in Newton Highlands)
Thursday 4/21/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 222• Austin Street Joint Advisory Planning Group, 7:00 p.m., Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street• Brookline-Newton-Watertown-Waltham Homelessness Consortium, cancelled

- **New FAR Website:** The Board of Aldermen recently adopted new floor area ratio (FAR) regulations for one- and two-family homes in residential zoning districts to take effect October 15, 2011. For information on the new regulations, please visit www.newtonma.gov/planning/FAR.php. The Inspectional Services and Planning Departments are asking those submitting applications for building permits and special permits to please use the worksheet on the website (also available at the ISD counter at City Hall) to calculate FAR under both current and new regulations; the data may help applicants decide whether they wish to wait until October 15th to submit an application and will also be used to monitor implementation of the new FAR regulations. **For more information please view the FAQ's from the web link above, email us at FAR@newtonma.gov or call 617.796.1120.**
- **Urban Design Commission:** The Commission will hold a meeting **Wednesday, April 20th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Department Conference Room (Basement Level), City Hall. Items on the agenda include: Primary sign at **188 Needham Street** for Baby Koo LLC; Replacement of an existing signage package at **732 Beacon Street** for Citgo; Resurfacing of an existing awning at **19 Pelham Street** for Inna's Kitchen, a principal sign at **1149 Washington Street** for Greatest Age Fitness; and New awning sign at **1203 Walnut Street** for Christina's Café. **Contact Derek Valentine at 617.796.1123 or dvalentine@newtonma.gov.**
- **Bike Newton Steering Committee Meeting:** Bike Newton will hold a meeting **Wednesday, April 20th** at 7:00pm in the Brigham House, 20 Hartford Street in Newton Highlands to discuss spring service events, bike rides, clinics, and the election of officers. **Contact Seth Zeren at 617.796.1145 or szeren@newtonma.gov.**
- **Austin Street - Joint Advisory Planning Group:** The Austin Street JAPG will meet on **Thursday, April 21st** at 7:00 p.m. at the Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street in Newtonville. **Contact Eve Tapper at 617.796.1141 or etapper@newtonma.gov.**
- **Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Thursday, April 21st** at 7:30p.m. in Room 222. Items on the agenda include: **29 Lee Road**, request to build rear addition and new entry porch; **33 Kingsbury Road** request to site new detached garage, construct new stone piers and driveway, and discuss garage alterations; **25 Lawrence Avenue** request to remove porch columns and railings and infill existing front porch; **68 Reservoir Avenue** request to reinstall window and install new gutters, rake, soffit, roof shingles, and fascia boards;

Administrative Discussion: a) Minutes b) Design Guidelines Discussion. **Contact Brian Lever at 617.796.1129 or blever@newtonma.gov.**

- **Is it Public Art or are they bike racks?**

You might have noticed the fork, knife and spoon that recently appeared in Newton Centre. They may look like public art, but in fact, they are the first of 109 new bike racks being installed throughout the City by the Departments of Planning, Public Works and Parks & Recreation. This is the final year of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Regional Bicycle Parking program whereby Newton and other communities in the region have been able to purchase and be reimbursed for selected bicycle rack styles. Check out the new "book" rack at the library, too. For more information, **Contact David Koses at 617.796.1133 or dkoses@newtonma.gov.**



- **Survey of City's Oldest Buildings:** The City of Newton's Department of Planning and Development is undertaking a project to identify and document all buildings in Newton built before 1830. This project is funded through a research grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission so that the City can improve its records on the history of its oldest buildings. We have identified approximately 120 buildings in the City that have either been previously identified as having been built pre-1830, or have conflicting information as to their correct date of construction. Our task is to consult all public records and resources at our disposal, as well as take exterior photos of all the buildings on our list. Between now and June 2011, you may see one of us outside of your or your neighbor's house taking a photo from a public way. The information gathered during this project will be used by the Department of Planning and Development to confirm the dates of construction for properties in order to enhance our understanding of historic building patterns in the City. If you have any questions about the project or wish to offer information you might have about the history of your home, we are happy to speak with you at any time. **Contact Katy Holmes at 617.796.1143 or kholmes@newtonma.gov or Brian Lever at 617.796.1129 or blever@newtonma.gov.**

